

# Shake Hands For Ever

Ruth Rendell

- 1
  - 1 Robert and Mrs Hathall are taking the train to Kingsmarkham to spend the weekend with Robert's wife, Angela.
  - 2 Because the only other time they met, Angela described Robert's first wife, Eileen, as a greedy cow. Mrs Hathall also sees Angela as the woman who broke up Robert and Eileen's happy marriage.
  - 3 Wexford doesn't feel any sympathy for Hathall because his words and behaviour sound false.
- 2
  - 1 Hathall gets angry when Wexford asks him questions.
  - 2 He is reading about his wife's murder.
  - 3 There are a few of Hathall's fingerprints, and some of his mother's. Angela's fingerprints are on the back door, on the door from the kitchen into the hall, and on her bedroom door. The fingerprints of an unknown man are on the books and on the inside of a bedroom cupboard door. There is also a whole handprint of an unknown woman on the edge of the bath, showing a small L-shaped scar on the forefinger of a right hand.
- 3
  - 1 a) Wexford finds Nancy quite beautiful, and he finds it difficult not to stare at her; b) when she leans across the desk and brings herself nearer to him, he wants to stay close to her pretty face; c) when checking her finger for the L-shaped scar, Wexford notes how warm and smooth Nancy's hand is, and holds it a moment too long – when he realizes, he feels embarrassed and lets her hand drop quickly; d) after Nancy has left his office and is crossing the road outside, Wexford waves back to her and thinks that she feels like an old friend.
  - 2 When he couldn't find Angela, Hathall looked for her downstairs and in the garden, and sent his mother upstairs. Wexford thinks that this was strange because the shy and nervous Angela was most likely to be in her bedroom.
- 4
  - 1 Any four from the following: she refused the divorce; she became very angry; she said some terrible things; she used their daughter Rosemary and Mrs Hathall to try and make Hathall stay; she started to come screaming and shouting to Hathall's office and to Angela's workplace.
  - 2 Angela's cousin, Mark Somerset, owns Bury Cottage. Somerset let them rent the cottage after Hathall had got divorced – Hathall worked nearby in Toxborough, the couple had almost no money, and Angela was too ill to work.
  - 3 Hathall decided to stay week-nights with his mother in Balham after he got a job with Marcus Flower in central London. Balham isn't far from Victoria Station, which is where the Kingsmarkham train stops.
- 5
  - 1 Robert Hathall says he was angry that Somerset made them pay rent, even though Angela was Somerset's cousin. Mark Somerset says that he felt sorry for the couple, so he only asked them to pay five pounds a week – a very low rent.
  - 2 He never liked her and thought she was lazy (but he's sorry she's dead).
  - 3 Because the book was only published this year.
- 6
  - 1 a Nancy Lake is planning to go to the Peacock Restaurant in Pomfret.  
b Wexford is planning to go to the Carousel Café in Kingsmarkham.
  - 2 The L-shaped scar is from a woman, a right hand, and a forefinger.

- 7
- 1 The Wexfords stay at Howard and Denise Fortune's London house.
  - 2
    - a Jason Marcus and Stephen Flower say that they are sorry about 'poor old Robert's wife'.
    - b Linda Kipling says that Robert used to phone his wife every day at lunchtime and that he never used to talk about his marriage. She also describes what he was doing on the Friday of the murder: he was in the office all morning, then called Angela, then went out for lunch with Jason Marcus before spending the afternoon in the office and then leaving to meet his mother. She adds that no women, including his wife, ever phoned him and that he wasn't sleeping with any of the women at the office.
  - 3 People who use the library don't usually have to pay if they bring their books back late. But Miss Marcovitch found out that a young lady working at the library had asked people for payment and then kept the money for herself. She suspected that this young lady was Angela Hathall.
- 8
- 1
    - a Butler says that Jonathan Craig is the nephew of his retired partner, Mr Craig. He worked at the archaeologists' place and introduced Robert Hathall to Angela at his (Jonathan's) uncle's retirement party.
    - b Butler says that when he told Robert Hathall to manage his private life better, Robert then got angry and said that he was leaving. Butler tried to persuade him to stay, but he wouldn't listen. Butler then says that Robert was not the kind of man who would break the law; perhaps he didn't always tell the truth, but he was honest. Butler also jokes that he thought that Robert was going to murder his first wife.
    - c Butler says that he only met Angela Hathall once, at his partner's retirement party.
    - d Butler says that Eileen Hathall once came to the office to see Robert, and another time she sat on the stairs all day waiting for him (Robert). When Robert wouldn't come out to see her, she came back the next day and screamed and shouted at Butler. She wanted Robert to go back to her and her daughter.
  - 2 First, that a man has reported seeing a dark-haired young woman arriving at Bury Cottage in Hathall's car at 3:05pm on the Friday of the murder. The man said the woman was wearing a red shirt and that there was a passenger (probably female) in the car. Second, that the chief constable wants to see Wexford at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon.
  - 3 Because she saw that he hurt her mother (Eileen) badly when he went off with Angela. After that, she didn't want to see him.
  - 4 Because Hathall has sent a letter to Griswold complaining about Wexford's behaviour, and Wexford doesn't have any evidence to prove that Hathall is guilty.
- 9
- 1
    - a Burden thinks a man killed Angela. She was lonely and she gave him a lift in her car. She brought him back to the cottage, and he strangled her. Perhaps it was an accident, when he tried to get the necklace off her.
    - b Wexford thinks that Hathall killed Angela to be able to marry another woman – the woman whose handprint is on the bath.
    - c Griswold agrees with Burden's explanation (see (a) above).
  - 2 Because that's where the other woman is living, and nobody knows him there; he can then secretly go out in the evenings to be with her.
  - 3 One evening and one Saturday or Sunday every week. Wexford sends Ginge's wages in the post.
  - 4 He reads that Mark Somerset's wife, Gwendolen, has died.
- 10
- 1 The woman was nice-looking, had short blonde hair, and was probably about thirty years old.
  - 2 Because the poem talks about a couple separating and never seeing each other again: shaking hands for ever. But in the story, Hathall and the woman have not said goodbye and disappeared from each other's lives. They are still together.
  - 3 Wexford mustn't tell Griswold: a) that he's been paying Ginge Matthews to watch Hathall; and b) that Chief Superintendent Fortune has seen Hathall with a woman. He can't mention these things because he is not supposed to be working on the case.

- 11**
- 1 Wexford takes his two-week holiday in London in order to continue his investigation into Hathall.
  - 2 Because Ginge's wife has got a job and he doesn't need the money now. He also has to stay at home and look after the kids.
  - 3 The girl is Robert Hathall's daughter, Rosemary.
- 12**
- 1 Because he half-sees Hathall lift his hand, and is worried that he might get hit. He moves quickly down the top three stairs so that this doesn't happen.
  - 2
    - a On Monday, he finds that Hathall has not come home after work – he gets to West End Green at six o'clock and waits until 7.30pm, then he goes along Dartmeet Avenue, where there is no light in Hathall's room.
    - b On Tuesday, he doesn't find out anything – he is too busy to watch Hathall.
    - c On Wednesday, he sees Hathall coming out of work at 5pm. He then watches him go down into Bond Street underground station and take a train west – away from home.
  - 3 Her name; her address; when she is starting; the hours she is going to work; and where her wages will be paid (into her bank or the Post Office).
  - 4 Because Hathall is leaving for Brazil the day before Christmas Eve.
- 13**
- 1 Richard Grey has been arrested for theft / stealing from a shop.
  - 2 Wexford asks Lovat to check the banks in Toxborough for evidence of any false accounts, and gives him ten days to do it. Wexford cannot do this himself because he is not supposed to be working on the investigation.
  - 3 She was with a boy (and not on a school trip to France as she had told her mother).
- 14**
- 1
    - a The Toxborough account is at the Trustee Savings Bank and in the name of Mrs Mary Lewis. The address is a Toxborough address, but the people who live there are called Kingsbury, not Lewis. They are away at the moment, but they have had people to stay with them. There was money paid into this account from Kidd and Company until March or April last year, then it stopped.
    - b The Passingham St John account belonged to a woman who worked at Kidd and Company and left last March. There was also money paid into this account from Kidd and Company until March or April last year, then it stopped.
    - c The address of the woman's account in Myringham is a small hotel. The people there don't remember the woman, and Lovat and Hutton haven't found her. There was also money paid into this account from Kidd and Company until March or April last year, which has also now stopped.
  - 2 Mark Somerset and Nancy Lake have been lovers for nineteen years. They were going to get married when Nancy's husband died, but then Mark's wife became very ill and he couldn't leave her. But now she is dead, they are free to marry.
  - 3 They finished their drinks quickly and pushed their way out through the crowd. Then they walked away along the street and took a taxi up Pembridge Road.
- 15**
- 1 Because Morag Grey also used to live on Maynnot Way. Wexford thinks she may be Robert Hathall's woman and part of the wages fraud.
  - 2 He phones London Airport to find out about Hathall's flight, and says that they will get the airport police to charge Hathall and the woman with fraud and hold them there. He then tells Wexford to go and get Hathall.
  - 3 She refused to go on living with him and sent him away – she said she didn't want to live with someone who was dishonest.

- 16**
- 1 Because there is thick fog and no planes are flying.
  - 2
    - a Hathall has phoned Aveney, to find out if the police asked questions about him and his wife. He also tries to phone the airport, to ask about his flight.
    - b Aveney has tried to phone Wexford, to tell him about Hathall's phone call. But Wexford didn't answer, so Aveney phoned Griswold and told him instead.
    - c Wexford phones Burden at the airport, so that they can tell each other what they have discovered.
  - 3 The Rosy Cross is a pub. It is the place where Howard saw Hathall and the blonde-haired woman together, and where the couple are waiting until they have more information about their flight.
- 17**
- 1 The murdered woman is Morag Grey.
  - 2
    - a Morag Grey found out about the Hathalls' wages fraud and so they killed her before she told anyone about it.
    - b After killing Morag Grey, Angela Hathall dressed her in her own jeans and red shirt in order to make Morag look like her.
    - c Angela Hathall has an L-shaped scar on her right forefinger, and it was this handprint that she forgot to clean off the side of the bath.
    - d Angela Hathall strangled Morag Grey with Morag's own necklace.
    - e Hathall discovered that Morag Grey spoke Gaelic. So that they could meet Morag to kill her, Angela wrote to her, pretending to need help with her study of Celtic languages.